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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 20, 2006

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McFALL NEW TRIAL MOTION DENIED

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that U.S. District Court Judge Morrison C. England today denied a motion for a new trial filed by defendant MONTE D. McFALL, 58, of Lathrop, in the San Joaquin County public corruption case. The ruling followed a one and a half day hearing in U.S. District Court in Sacramento.

McFALL was convicted last year following a five-week jury trial in U.S. District Court. The case also led to the guilty pleas of former San Joaquin County Sheriff T. BAXTER DUNN, 58, former San Joaquin County Supervisor LYNN BEDFORD, 68, former Executive Director of Governor Davis' Office of Criminal Justice Planning N. ALLEN SAWYER, 37, and BEDORD's former legislative assistant J. TYLER REVES, all four of whom have previously been sentenced.

McFALL's former attorney, William Romaine, testified yesterday as part of his new attorneys' efforts to claim that McFALL had not received effective assistance of counsel at the trial. Judge England, however, in rejecting that claim, noted that Romaine had effectively cross examined witnesses and otherwise handled a difficult trial. "The evidence in this case against Mr. McFall was overwhelming," Judge England said. McFALL's current attorneys are the fourth set of defense attorneys to represent him in this case.

Judge England scheduled the sentencing of McFALL for October 3, 2006, at 9:00 am. McFALL remains in federal custody.

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